

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 1, replace the paragraph spanning lines 6-7 with the following amended paragraph:

This application ~~claims priority to~~ is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Seral No. 10.406,908, filed 02 April 2003, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

On page 6, replace the paragraph spanning lines 22-26 with the following amended paragraph:

In yet another embodiment, the invention provides ~~[[A]]~~ a method of performing RNA interference, said mathod comprising exposing a double stranded polynucleotide to a target nucleic acid, wherein said double stranded polynucleotide is comprised of a sense strand and an antisense strand, and wherein said sense strand is substantially nonfunctional.

On page 41, replace the paragraph spanning lines 21-22 with the following amended paragraph:

The sense strand can further comprise~~[[s]]~~ a cap on its 3' end. Preferably, the cap is an inverted deoxythymidine (idT) or two consecutive 2'-O-methyl modified bases at the end positions (nucleotides 18 and 19).~~[[.]]~~

Please replace Table 4, beginning on page 61, with the following amended Table

4:

<b>Table 4: Constructs for 2'-Deoxy Modifications/fLUC</b>		
<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Sequence</b>	<b>SEQ. ID NO.</b>
fLUC5-AS 3D19	uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt	27
fLUC5-AS 3D16	uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt	28
fLUC5-AS 3D13	uuuaugagggaucdudcdugadt dt	29
fLUC5-AS 3D10	uuuaugaggdadudcucucugadt dt	30
fLUC5-AS 3D7	uuuaugdadgdgaucucucugadt dt	31
fLUC5-AS 3D4	uuudadudgagggaucucucugadt dt	32
fLUC5-AS 3D1	dududuaugagggaucucucugadt dt	33
fLUC5-AS 2D19	uuuaugagggaucucucudgdadt dt	34
fLUC5-AS 2D17	uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt	35
fLUC5-AS 2D15	uuuaugagggaucucdudcugadt dt	36
fLUC5-AS 2D13	uuuaugagggaucdudcucugadt dt	37
fLUC5-AS 2D11	uuuaugaggadudcucucugadt dt	38
fLUC5-AS 2D9	uuuaugagdgdgaucucucugadt dt	39
fLUC5-AS 2D7	uuuaugdadgggaucucucugadt dt	40
fLUC5-AS 2D5	uuuadudgagggaucucucugadt dt	41
fLUC5-AS 2D3	uududaugagggaucucucugadt dt	42
fLUC5-AS 2D1	duduuaugagggaucucucugadt dt	43
fLUC5-AS 1D19	uuuaugagggaucucucugdad dt	44
fLUC5-AS 1D18	uuuaugagggaucucucudgadt dt	45
fLUC5-AS 1D17	uuuaugagggaucucucdugadt dt	46
fLUC5-AS 1D16	uuuaugagggaucucudcugadt dt	47
fLUC5-AS 1D15	uuuaugagggaucucducugadt dt [[2]]	48
fLUC5-AS 1D14	uuuaugagggaucudcucugadt dt	[[48]] <u>49</u>

fLUC5-AS 1D13	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	50
fLUC5-AS 1D12	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	51
fLUC5-AS 1D11	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	52
fLUC5-AS 1D10	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	53
fLUC5-AS 1D9	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	54
fLUC5-AS 1D8	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	55
fLUC5-AS 1D7	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	56
fLUC5-AS 1D6	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	57
fLUC5-AS 1D5	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	58
fLUC5-AS 1D4	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	59
fLUC5-AS 1D3	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	60
fLUC5-AS 1D2	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	61
fLUC5-AS 1D1	uuuaugagggaucducucugadtdt	62
fLUC5-S 3D19	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	63
fLUC5-S 3D16	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	64
fLUC5-S 3D13	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	65
fLUC5-S 3D10	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	66
fLUC5-S 3D7	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	67
fLUC5-S 3D4	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	68
fLUC5-S 3D1	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	69
fLUC5-S 2D19	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	70
fLUC5-S 2D17	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	71
fLUC5-S 2D15	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	72
fLUC5-S 2D13	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	73
fLUC5-S 2D11	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	74
fLUC5-S 2D9	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	75
fLUC5-S 2D7	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	76
fLUC5-S 2D5	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	77
fLUC5-S 2D3	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	78

fLUC5-S 2D1	dudcagagagauccucauaaadttdt	79
fLUC5-S 1D19	ucagagagauccucauaadadttdt	80
fLUC5-S 1D18	ucagagagauccucauadaadttdt	81
fLUC5-S 1D17	ucagagagauccucaudaaadttdt	82
fLUC5-S 1D16	ucagagagauccucaduaaadttdt	83
fLUC5-S 1D15	ucagagagauccucdauaaadttdt	84
fLUC5-S 1D14	ucagagagauccudcauaaadttdt	85
fLUC5-S 1D13	ucagagagauccducauaaadttdt	86
fLUC5-S 1D12	ucagagagaucdcucauaaadttdt	87
fLUC5-S 1D11	ucagagagaudccucauaaadttdt	88
fLUC5-S 1D10	ucagagagaduccucauaaadttdt	89
fLUC5-S 1D9	ucagagagdauccucauaaadttdt	90
fLUC5-S 1D8	ucagagadgauccucauaaadttdt	91
fLUC5-S 1D7	ucagagdagauccucauaaadttdt	92
fLUC5-S 1D6	ucagadgagauccucauaaadttdt	93
fLUC5-S 1D5	ucagdagagauccucauaaadttdt	94
fLUC5-S 1D4	ucadgagagauccucauaaadttdt	95
fLUC5-S 1D3	ucdagagagauccucauaaadttdt	96
fLUC5-S 1D2	udcagagagauccucauaaadttdt	97
fLUC5-S 1D1	ducagagagauccucauaaadttdt	98
A "d" indicates that the nucleotide following the "d" is deoxy at the 2' position.		

Please replace Table 5, beginning on page 64, with the following amended Table 5:

<b>Table 5: Constructs for 2'-O-Methyl Modifications/fLUC</b>		
<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Sequence</b>	<b>SEQ. ID NO.</b>
fLUC5-AS 3M19	uuuaugagggaucucucumgmadttdt	99
fLUC5-AS 3M16	uuuaugagggaucucumcmumgadttdt	100
fLUC5-AS 3M13	uuuaugagggaucumcmucugadttdt	101
fLUC5-AS 3M10	uuuaugaggmamumcucucugadttdt	102
fLUC5-AS 3M7	uuuaugmammggaucucucugadttdt	103
fLUC5-AS 3M4	uumamumgagggaucucucugadttdt	104
fLUC5-AS 3M1	mumumuauagggaucucucugadttdt	105
fLUC5-AS 2M19	uuuaugagggaucucucumgmadttdt	106
fLUC5-AS 2M17	uuuaugagggaucucucumgadttdt	107
fLUC5-AS 2M15	uuuaugagggaucucumcugadttdt	108
fLUC5-AS 2M13	uuuaugagggaucumcucugadttdt	109
fLUC5-AS 2M11	uuuaugaggmamumcucucugadttdt	110
fLUC5-AS 2M9	uuuaugagmgmaucucucugadttdt	111
fLUC5-AS 2M7	uuuaugmamgggaucucucugadttdt	112
fLUC5-AS 2M5	uuuamumgagggaucucucugadttdt	[[1113]] <u>113</u>
fLUC5-AS 2M3	uumumaugagggaucucucugadttdt	114
fLUC5-AS 2M1	mumuauagggaucucucugadttdt	115
fLUC5-AS 1M19	uuuaugagggaucucucugmadtdt	116
fLUC5-AS 1M18	uuuaugagggaucucucumgadttdt	117
fLUC5-AS 1M17	uuuaugagggaucucucumugadttdt	118
fLUC5-AS 1M16	uuuaugagggaucucumcugadttdt	119
fLUC5-AS 1M15	uuuaugagggaucucumucugadttdt	120
fLUC5-AS 1M14	uuuaugagggaucumcucugadttdt	121
fLUC5-AS 1M13	uuuaugagggaucmucucugadttdt	122
fLUC5-AS 1M12	uuuaugagggaumcucucugadttdt	123

fLUC5-AS 1M11	uuuaugaggamucucucugadtdt	124
fLUC5-AS 1M10	uuuaugaggmaucucucugadtdt	125
fLUC5-AS 1M9	uuuaugagmgaucucucugadtdt	126
fLUC5-AS 1M8	uuuaugamggaucucucugadtdt	127
fLUC5-AS 1M7	uuuaugmaggaucucucugadtdt	128
fLUC5-AS 1M6	uuuaumgaggaucucucugadtdt	129
fLUC5-AS 1M5	uuuamugaggaucucucugadtdt	130
fLUC5-AS 1M4	uuumaugaggaucucucugadtdt	131
fLUC5-AS 1M3	uumuaugaggaucucucugadtdt	132
fLUC5-AS 1M2	umuuauagggaucucucugadtdt	133
fLUC5-AS 1M1	muuuauagggaucucucugadtdt	134
fLUC5-S 3M19	ucagagagauccucaumamamadtdt	135
fLUC5-S 3M16	ucagagagauccucamumamaadtdt	136
fLUC5-S 3M13	ucagagagauccmumcmauaaadtdt	137
fLUC5-S 3M10	ucagagagamumcmcucuaaadtdt	138
fLUC5-S 3M7	ucagagmamgmauccucauaaadtdt	139
fLUC5-S 3M4	ucamgmamgagauccucauaaadtdt	140
fLUC5-S 3M1	mumcmagagagauccucauaaadtdt	141
fLUC5-S 2M19	ucagagagauccucauamamadtdt	142
fLUC5-S 2M17	ucagagagauccucamumaaadtdt	143
fLUC5-S 2M15	ucagagagauccumcmauaaadtdt	144
fLUC5-S 2M13	ucagagagauccmucuaaadtdt	145
fLUC5-S 2M11	ucagagagamumccucauaaadtdt	146
fLUC5-S 2M9	ucagagamgmauccucauaaadtdt	147
fLUC5-S 2M7	ucagamgmagauccucauaaadtdt	148
fLUC5-S 2M5	ucagmamgagauccucauaaadtdt	149
fLUC5-s 2M3	ucmamgagagauccucauaaadtdt	150
fLUC5-S 2M1	mumcagagagauccucauaaadtdt	151
fLUC5-S 1M19	ucagagagauccucauaamadtdt	152

fLUC5-S 1M18	ucagagagauccucauamaadtdt	153
fLUC5-S 1M17	ucagagagauccucaumaaadtdt	154
fLUC5-S 1M16	ucagagagauccucamuaaadttdt	155
fLUC5-S 1M15	ucagagagauccucmauaaadttdt	156
fLUC5-S 1M14	ucagagagauccumcauaaadttdt	157
fLUC5-S 1M13	ucagagagauccmucuaaadttdt	158
fLUC5-S 1M12	ucagagagauccmcuaaadttdt	159
fLUC5-S 1M11	ucagagagaumccucauaaadttdt	160
fLUC5-S 1M10	ucagagagamuccucauaaadttdt	161
fLUC5-S 1M9	ucagagagmauccucauaaadttdt	162
fLUC5-S 1M8	ucagagamgauccucauaaadttdt	163
fLUC5-S 1M7	ucagagmagauccucauaaadttdt	164
fLUC5-S 1M6	ucagamgagauccucauaaadttdt	165
fLUC5-S 1M5	ucagmagagauccucauaaadttdt	166
fLUC5-S 1M4	ucamgagagauccucauaaadttdt	167
fLUC5-S 1M3	ucmagagagauccucauaaadttdt	168
fLUC5-S 1M2	umcagagagauccucauaaadttdt	169
fLUC5-S 1M1	mucagagagauccucauaaadttdt	170
The letter "m" indicates that the nucleotide following the "m" is modified with a 2'-O-methyl moiety.		